

# Advisory Panel

## ***MISSOURI SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL*** **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1999 - 2000**

Eric Remelius, Chairperson 1999 - 2000

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report summarizes the activities and recommendations of the Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel for the period of time from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000. This report is submitted to the Commissioner of Education for the State of Missouri, pursuant to the requirements in the regulations promulgated for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### **DUTIES OF THE PANEL**

- \* To advise the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities.
- \* To comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities.
- \* To advise DESE in the development of evaluations and the reporting of educational data.
- \* To advise DESE in the development of corrective action plans to address the findings identified within the Federal monitoring reports.
- \* To advise DESE in the development and implementation of policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities including eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

### **In addition, the panel will**

- \* Appoint committees, when necessary, to study and make recommendations, to the panel, regarding specific issues related to the education of children with disabilities.
- \* And submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Education.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Special Education Advisory Panel is composed of members representing a wide variety of perspectives and stakeholder groups who are involved in the education of children with disabilities.

***Advisory Panel Members 1999 - 2000***

Eric Remelius Chairperson

Marianne Toombs Vice-Chairperson

Recil Skinner Secretary

Pam Grindstaff Paula Winchester Patricia Jackson

Deana O'Brien Barbara Scheidegger Janet Jacoby

Pam Lenox Gay Jones Gail Cheatum

Kent Kolaga Amy Hansen Lynda Roberts

Linda Murrell Patricia Henley Dee Wyckoff

Delores John Dan Colgan Michael Hanrahan

Hugh Kinney Linda Bigby Dennis Gragg

Joan Zavitsky Robin Rust John Bell

Jim Dougherty Russ Doumas Stephen Barr

**Panel Meetings**

September 30 - October 1, 1999 Jefferson City

December 9 - 10, 1999 Jefferson City

March 8 - 9, 2000 Jefferson City

June 8 - 9, 2000 Jefferson City

**PRESENTATIONS BY DESE STAFF**

***September 30 - October 1, 1999***

\* DESE response to Missouri Special Education Advisory Panel Annual Report for 1997 - 1998 and 1998 -1999: Kent King

\* Due Process Disclosure: Heidi Atkins Lieberman

\* Special Education Financing: Rick Hutcherson

\* State Improvement Grant: Melodie Friedebach

***December 9 - 10, 1999***

\* Status of Special Funds: Rick Hutcherson

\* House Bill 401 (Blind Literacy): Rick Hutcherson

\* State Improvement Grant: Melodie Friedebach

\* State Plan Public Comment Period: Melodie Friedebach

\* Private Schools: Stephen Barr

***March 8 - 9, 2000***

\* DESE Reorganization and IEP Changes: Stephen Barr

\* Status of State Plan and Responses to Public Comment: Melodie Friedebach

\* Performance Report for Part B of IDEA: Melodie Friedebach

\* Status of Special Funds: Gary Schroer

\* State Improvement Grant: Melodie Friedebach

***June 8 - 9, 2000***

\* Legislation/Appropriations: Rick Hutcherson

\* Regional Technical Assistance Centers: Stephen Barr

\* IEP Revision: Stephen Barr

\* Summit Report Card: Melodie Friedebach

\* SIG Grant Activities: Melodie Friedebach

\* Due Process Expenditures: Heidi Atkins Lieberman

**OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

***September 30 - October 1, 1999***

\* WEB Page Report: Eric Remelius

\* Parent Training Legislation: Eric Remelius

***December 8 - 9, 1999***

\* Parent Training Legislation Update: Eric Remelius

\* Annual Report: Steve Dodge

\* WEB Page Report: Eric Remelius

***March 8 - 9, 2000***

\* Medicaid Update: Robin Rust

\* Legislative Update: Hugh Kinney

\* Parent Legislation Update: Eric Remelius

\* Meeting the Challenge: Eric Remelius

\* Proposal Regarding Annual Report: Steve Dodge

***June 8 - 9, 2000***

\* WEB Page Report: Eric Remelius

**AREAS OF PANEL ACTIVITY**

**Committees**

The Advisory Panel determined the need for a number of committees and related issues for the next fiscal year. These are:

\* Meeting the Challenge Committee: Hugh Kinney, Amy Hansen, Janet Jacoby, Pam Lenox, Barbara Scheidegger, Gail Cheatum, Kent Kolaga.

\* School Violence Committee: Patricia Henley, Eric Remelius, Dennis Gragg, Barbara Scheidegger, Recil Skinner, Joan Zavitsky.

\* School Funding Committee: Dan Colgan, Robin Rust

\* Education Collaboration Committee: Deana O'Brien, Linda Murrell, Gay Jones, Pam Grindstaff, Linda Bigby, Marianne Toombs, Mike Hanrahan, Patricia Jackson.

\* Nominating Committee: The officers will serve as the Nominating Committee.

\* Alternative Placement Committee: This will initially be comprised of the School Violence Committee.

Each committee is to develop a position paper and report back to the Advisory Panel.

### **Annual Report**

During the last year, a subcommittee met to consider the nature of the Annual Report and to offer recommendations regarding the same to the Advisory Panel. Members of this subcommittee were Kent Kolaga, Recil Skinner, Barbara Scheidegger, Joan Zavitsky, and Eric Remelius. The subcommittee recommended that:

\* The Annual Report for 1999 - 2000 be prepared in the same manner as previous years.

\* This report also be prepared for a wider distribution. This version of the Annual Report would be formatted as a booklet and ready for printing on September 1, 2000.

### **By-laws**

The Advisory Panel revised the By-laws to amend section 5, article 2, to read, "A quorum shall consist of the members present."

### **Parent Training Legislation**

The Chairperson of the Advisory Panel participated in a stakeholders' meeting hosted by DESE regarding proposed legislation to fund parent training.

### **Election of Officers**

**The following officers were elected for 2000 - 2001:**

Marianne Toombs Chairperson

Recil Skinner Vice-Chairperson

Dennis Gragg Secretary

### **AREAS OF PANEL ACTIVITY FOR 2000 - 2001**

The committees formed during the past year, have identified the following recommended activities to be pursued in 2000 - 2001.

\* Education Collaboration Committee: This committee recommends the creation of a Task Force

with representatives from the following groups:

1. Parents serving on the DESE Advisory Panel (from different districts)
2. Teachers from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
3. Representatives of the Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education (MOCASE)
4. Representatives of Missouri Parents Act (MPACT)
5. Representatives of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

This Task Force would develop strategies, which will lead to a partnership between parents, school districts, and DESE so that they can begin to work together to resolve conflicts.

\* School Funding Committee: This committee recommends that the Special Education Advisory Panel identify key legislators and seek to win their support of pending legislation which would be favorable to education, and specifically to special education.

\* School Violence Committee: This committee identified the following areas, activities, and questions as those they wish to pursue:

1. Become a clearinghouse for information to be provided to districts, parents, agencies, children, and other stakeholders
2. Define "access to the curriculum"
3. Provide interpretation of the Safe Schools Act, especially with respect to Special Education
4. Request better data collection regarding safe schools, school violence and special education
5. Discuss the tie between violence and special education
6. Identify the role of "manifestation determination" and how it is used in addressing violence
7. Identify the role of the IEP in addressing school violence
8. Identify the transition or re-integration processes for children removed from schools
9. Discuss alternative educational placements
10. Determine what violence prevention measures can be taken and what role "Positive Support Plans" can play
11. Determine if early identification measures can be taken

\* Alternative Placement Committee: This committee is to be initially comprised of the members of the School Violence, and during the next fiscal year they will identify their purpose and recommendations.

\* Meeting the Challenge Committee: This committee will identify its specific responses to Meeting the Challenge during the next fiscal year.